

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomas Martin on 10/20/2009.

In claim 1, insert --wherein said first end and said second end each terminates inside said interior of said coil.-- at the very end of the claim.

In claim 12, insert --wherein said first end and said second end each terminates inside said interior of said coil.-- at the very end of the claim.

Cancel claim 6.

Cancel claim 19.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of Shipp et al. (US 5,858,018; "Shipp '018") in view of Crainich (US 6,266,843) and Shipp (US 6,290,575; "Shipp '575") disclose the invention substantially as stated in detail in the office action mailed 1/22/2009, but fails to disclose or fairly suggest, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim, a connector formed of multiple coil windings

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of the single piece of material, wherein the coil windings have an interior and are unwound when moving the clip from a closed position to an open position. In particular, the coil windings of the connector of Shipp '018 in view of Crainich and Shipp '414 do not unwind as the clip is opened since the support members are moved in the general direction that the coil has been wound. The prior art of Anders (US Des. 372,937) in view of Shyu (US Des. 401,626) fails to disclose a clip wherein the maximum width of the proximal end is twice the thickness of the wire and the free ends each terminate inside the interior of the coil.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KATHLEEN SONNETT whose telephone number is (571)272-5576. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, M-F, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KCS 10/20/2009

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731
10/21/2009